

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott  
Joel Jacobs  
Marshall Johnson  
Edward Garvey  
LeRoy Koppendrayer

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of **Blackduck Telephone Company's** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **St. Louis County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: September 29, 2000

DOCKET NO. **P505/ES-00-1220**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911 SYSTEM COSTS

**BACKGROUND**

On July 7, 1981, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved St. Louis County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Services system.

On August 3, 1981, the Commission approved the actual costs Northwestern Bell Telephone Company incurred for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in St. Louis County.

On June 7, 1989, the Commission approved the actual costs Contel Telephone Company incurred for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in St. Louis County.

On May 10, 1990, the Commission approved the actual costs Northwestern Bell Telephone Company incurred for installing another portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in St. Louis County.

On September 11, 2000, the Commission approved the actual costs U.S. West Communications incurred for modifying their Automatic Number Identification (ANI) system to allow calls from the Ash River Telephone Exchange to be routed through the Duluth Exchange to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Virginia, Minnesota.

**CURRENT FILING**

On March 29, 2000, Blackduck Telephone Company (the Company) installed two outswitch 911 trunks and two interexchange circuits from the Ash River to the Duluth Exchange to modify the ANI system to route 911 calls from the Ash River Exchange to the Virginia PSAP located in St. Louis County (911 calls were formerly routed to the Koochiching County PSAP at International Falls).

On June 21, 2000, the Company certified the actual costs that they have incurred for the provision of trunks and interexchange circuit to provide ANI service from the Ash River Exchange to the Virginia PSAP.

The Company is now requesting Commission approval of the actual costs for trunks and interexchange circuits to provide ANI service to the Virginia PSAP. Commission approval is necessary before the Department of Administration (DOA) will make payments for 911 system costs.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11, subd. 3 states:

Subd. 3 (METHOD OF PAYMENT; CERTIFICATION.) A public utility incurring reimbursable costs under subdivision 1 or 2 shall certify those costs to the commissioner of administration. The certification shall be in a form as prescribed by the commissioner after consultation with the public utilities commission. If the commissioner and the commission approve the certified costs as appropriate and accurate, the commissioner shall pay the certified costs from money appropriated for that purpose within 90 days following receipt by the commissioner of the certified costs. The commissioner of administration shall estimate the amount required to reimburse public utilities for the state's obligations under subdivisions 1 and 2 of this section and the governor shall include the estimated amount in the biennial budget request.

Blackduck Telephone Company has certified, in writing, that the elements of 911 services and associated costs indicated on Attachment A, reflect only charges for services actually rendered in the direct provision of 911 service in St. Louis County.

All charges listed on Attachment A are in accordance with the Company's tariffs.

The Commission finds that the costs for 911 Emergency Telephone Service in St. Louis County which have been certified by the Company are appropriate and accurate.

#### **Policy References:**

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11 System Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1400 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Recurring Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1500 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Central Office Modification Costs

### **ORDER**

1. The costs identified on Attachment A accompanying this Order are approved as appropriate and accurate pursuant to the Commission's March 21, 2000 Standing Order Designating Filings Requesting Certification of 911 Costs As Filings Subject to Approval Under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, Subd. 7, Docket No. P-999/CI-99-1723.
2. This Order does not approve payment of any 911 system costs. Any possible future approval of payment for system costs shall be granted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. Section 403.11.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
 )SS  
COUNTY OF RAMSEY )

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I \_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000 (s)he served the attached **Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for St. Louis County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P505/ES-00-1220.**

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

MR BILL SCHNELLMAN  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
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ST PAUL MN 55155

MR. HERB LIEN  
BLACKDUCK TELEPHONE COMPANY  
P.O. BOX 325  
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BLACKDUCK, MN 56630

JAMES R BEUTELSPACHER  
STATE 9-1-1 PROJECT MANAGER  
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING  
658 CEDAR STREET  
ST PAUL MN 55155

Subscribed and sworn to before me, \_\_\_\_\_

a notary public, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public